



Florida House of Representatives
Representative Carole Green
District 75

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GREEN'S MILITARY SPOUSE BENEFITS BILL PASSES SENATE

-Bill now heads to Governor for final approval-

TALLAHASSEE – Representative Carole Green's (R-Fort Myers) legislation to provide unemployment benefits to military spouses today passed the Senate, 38-0. The bill will now go to Governor Bush to be signed into law.

"Improving the quality of life for the families of those who protect our freedom is crucial to our state and nation," said Representative Green. "This legislation will help ease the burden of spousal unemployment that hurts military families and dampens our economy."

House Bill (HB) 1183 revises eligibility for unemployment benefits to include military spouses who terminate their employment to relocate as a result of their military-connected spouse's permanent change of status, station orders, activation orders, or unit deployment orders. This would include spouses of Florida National Guard members and reservists who leave their job upon their spouse's activation or deployment.

Currently, the unemployment rate for highly-mobile military spouses is approximately 24 percent, four times higher than the civilian unemployment rate. Military spouse earnings are significantly lower than comparably educated civilian spouses.

"The next round of base realignments and closings will be critical to the strength of Florida's economy," said Rep. Green. "By keeping the families around the bases stronger, we will prove that Florida not only cares about the bases, but the military families as well."

While the primary criteria for base closing will be military value, quality of life considerations represent an important secondary consideration. States and local communities that can demonstrate that they are proactively addressing quality of life issues of importance to military families will enjoy a competitive advantage.

The House passed the bill on Monday, March 29th, 109-0.

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